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Message Text

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42
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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DOTE-00 FPC-01 STR-04 L-03 /102 W
---------- 060654
R 301201Z DEC 75
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4374
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS KUWAIT 5441

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAID, EGEN,UNDP, XF, KU
SUBJ: ARAB FUND-UNDP JOINT ARAB DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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REF: KUWAIT 3972

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1. ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (AFESD) AND UNDP REPRESENTATIVES AS WELL AS AMBASSADORS AND/OR REPS WHICH ARAB FUND AND UNDP WILL COOPERATE IN A JOINT ARAB DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. JOINT PROGRAM AIMS AT IDENTIFICATION AND PREPARATION OF INTER-ARAB PROJECTS AND THEIR RELATED FEASIBILITY STUDIES WITH A VIEW TO SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WILL BE GIVEN TO DEVELOPMENT OF BASIC REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY IN FIELDS OF TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRIC POWER.

2. ARAB FUND WILL DIRECT AND SUPERVISE PROGRAM BOTH IN CAPACITY AS CO-FINANCIER AND AS EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR UNDP. AGREEMENT COVERS SIX YEAR PERIOD AND COVERS STUDIES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ESTIMATED TO COST $15 MILLION. AFESD AND UNDP WILL SHARE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COSTS, AND AFESD WILL FOLLOW-UP INITIAL EFFORTS BY COMPLETING FINANCING FOR THOSE PROJECTS WHICH ARE FOUND TO BE FIABLE. SEVERAL OTHER UN AND INTER-ARAB AGENCIES SUCH AS UNIDO, UNCTAD, EXWA, COUNCIL FOR ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR ARAB STATES ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME INVOLVED IN AFESD-UNDP JOINT PROGRAM.

3. COMMENT: AS INDICATED REFTEL STUDIES ALONE WORTH SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS AND THEREFORE REPRESENT IMPORTANT TRADE OPPORTUNITYFOR US CONSULTING FIRMS. ACTUAL PROJECTS THEM-SELVES LIKELY TO COST SEVERAL BILLION DOLLARS. ARAB FUND, WHICH STILL RELATIVELY YOUNG ORGANIZATION, LIKELY TO BE STRENGTHENED BY RELATIONSHIP WITH UNDP. FOR ITS PART, ACCORDING TO LOCAL UNDP DEPUTY RES REP, AGREEMENT WITH AFESD IS UNPRECEDENTED FOR UNDP. FOR FIRST TIME NON-UN AGENCY IS ACTING AS EXECUTIVE AGENT AND ALSO PROVIDING FINANCING FOR UNDP. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT BOTH ARABS AND UNDP ARE PLEASED WITH RELATIONSHIP AND LOOK FORWARD TO SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER JOINT PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUWAIT05441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750449-1235
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975125/aaaaadwd.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KUWAIT 3972
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB FUND-UNDP JOINT ARAB DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: EAID, EGEN, XF, KU, UNDP, AFESD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006